

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the ~~preparation of preparing~~ a salt melts, ~~and mixtures thereof~~, melt, or a mixture of several salt melts, said salt or salts being of the general formula (I)



in which

M is Li, Na, K, Rb or Cs,

D is Al, Ga, In or Tl, and

Hal is F, Cl, Br or I,

~~characterized in that the starting materials, a comprising melting and reacting one or more metal (D) halide halides (Hal) and an one or more alkali metal (M) salts salt, are fed via a solids metering device and melted and brought to reaction in a heatable extruder (1) with forced conveying, and then contacting the reaction products are subsequently passed through a tower or column (3) containing product with an alkali metal (M) salt.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the starting materials wherein the metal halide and the alkali metal salt~~ are melted and brought to reaction in a heatable extruder (1) with forced conveying at a temperature ~~between~~ of 50°C and to 800°C.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the reaction is carried out under reduced pressure, atmospheric pressure or superatmospheric pressure in the presence of atmospheric oxygen or, ~~if desired~~, under a protective-gas atmosphere.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the salt bed is processed in an wherein the parts of the extruder whose parts~~ which come into contact with the salts salt or melts melt thereof are made of an Ni alloy or of metals

a metal coated with PTFE/PFA, enamel or a ceramic material materials and which has a screw channel having an l/d ratio of ~~between 3 and to~~ 25, at a screw speeds speed of ~~between~~ 1 rpm and to 75 rpm.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts of the general formula (I) prepared according to Claim 1 as melt electrolyte in An electrochemical cells and batteries cell or battery comprising a salt melt prepared according to claim 1.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts of the general formula (I) prepared according to Claim 1 as melt electrolyte for A rechargeable sodium batteries and battery or a primary batteries battery comprising a salt melt prepared according to claim 1.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts of the general formula (I) prepared according to Claim 1 as A storage medium in a heat stores store comprising a salt melt prepared according to claim 1.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts of the general formula (I) prepared according to Claim 1 as A heat-transfer agent comprising a salt melt prepared according to claim 1.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts of the general formula (I) prepared according to Claim 1~~ In a process for covering and purifying molten metals in a heating bath, the improvement comprising using a salt melt prepared according to claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts of the general formula (I) prepared according to Claim 1~~ In a process for electrocoating of high-melting materials, the improvement comprising using a salt melt prepared according to claim 1.

11. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the metal halide and alkali metal salt are fed via a solids metering device to be melted and reacted.

12. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction products are contacted with an alkali metal salt in a tower or column.

13. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the salt melt of formula (I) is NaAlCl_4 .
14. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the extruder is a single screw extruder, a multiscreen extruder with co-rotating and counter rotating screws, a vented extruder, a planetary-gear extruder, a ram extruder or disc extruder.
15. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the extruder comprises one or more screw elements having reversed flow direction.
16. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the metal halide is an aluminum halide.
17. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt is NaCl .
18. (New) A process according to claim 11, wherein the alkali metal salt is NaCl .
19. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal salt that is melted and reacted in the extruder has the same chemical composition as the alkali metal salt that is contacted with the reaction product.
20. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the extruder forces the reaction product through the tower or column.